

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 00277 141238Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: EAID, EGEN, BGEN, ETRD, PFOR, BU, UR

SUBJECT: USSR-BULGARIAN TECHNICAL AID AGREEMENT SIGNED

1. PRESS ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 8 THE SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN USSR AND BULGARIA FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BULGARIA DURING THE SEVENTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN (1976-1980). ACCORDING TO PRESS, AGREEMENT SIGNED BY BULGARIAN CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS NIKOLA KALCHEV AND SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE STATE COMMITTEE FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS SEMYON SKACHKOV ON FEBRUARY 7 IN MOSCOW CALLS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 53 INDUSTRIAL AND OTHER PROJECTS ON BULGARIAN SOIL DURING 1976-80 PERIOD.

2. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT CALLS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TEN HOUSING "COMBINES", FOUR THERMOELECTRIC POWER PLANTS, ONE HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANT, AND A NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL

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PAGE 02 SOFIA 00277 141238Z

PLANTS. CONSTRUCTION WILL BEGIN NEXT YEAR ON EX-

PANSION OF PETROCHEMICAL COMBINE IN BURGAS, HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANT ON DANUBE RIVER WITH 400 MEGAWATT CAPACITY, AND EXPANSION OF POLYAMIDE FIBER PLANT IN VIDIN. HOUSING COMBINES ARE TO BE BUILT IN VARNNA, BURGAS, HASKOVO, PAZARDZHIK AND VRATSA AMONG OTHER CITIES.

3. IN COMMENTS MADE FOLLOWING SIGNING SKACHKOV NOTED BULGARIA RANKED FIRST, PRESUMABLY IN AID TERMS, AMONG PARTNERS OF SOVIET STATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

4. COMMENT: WHILE NO MONETARY VALUE REPORTED, IT SEEMS APPARENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED BULGARIA BY USSR WILL CONTINUE TO BE SUBSTANTIAL. OBVIOUSLY THIS TECHNICAL AGREEMENT DOES NOT COVER ALL FORMS OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN USSR AND BULGARIA. ON SOVIET SIDE, FOR EXAMPLE, IT WAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT SOVIET EXPERTS ARE TAKING PART IN SURVEY OF BULGARIAN SHALE OIL DEPOSITS. BULGARIA ON ITS PART IS INVOLVED IN A NUMBER OF PROJECTS IN USSR.

5. RABOTNICHESKO DELO, BCP PAPER, OF DECEMBER 21 REPORTED THAT GOB WILL SUPPLY 85 MILLION RUBLES WORTH OF MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT FOR METALLURGICAL PLANTS IN USSR. MORE RECENTLY ZEMEDEL'SKO ZNAME, BULGARIAN AGRARIAN UNION PARTY PAPER, IN FEBRUARY 5 ARTICLE ITEMIZED LARGE NUMBER OF PROJECTS IN USSR IN WHICH BULGARIA IS ACTIVE. BULGARIAN SPECIALISTS ARE BUILDING ORE-DRESSING COMBINES AT LEBEDIN AND MIHAILOV, UNSPECIFIED PROJECTS AT GUBKIN AND ZHELENOGORSK, AND KURSK MAGNETIC COMPLEX WHICH REPORTEDLY HAS 50 PERCENT KNOWN WORLD IRON ORE DEPOSITS. SOME 2300 BULGARIANS LOCATED IN ARCHANGEL ARE EXPANDING CELLULOSE AND PAPER COMBINE, WHILE BULGARIANS IN UKRAINE AND NORTHERN CAUCASUS HAVE BUILT PROJECTS FOR SOVIET PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY AND GAS PRODUCTION. BULGARIAN HOUSING PROJECTS HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED AT OVER 20 PLACES IN USSR FROM ARCHANGEL TO BUKHARA.

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